

The Legislative Fiscal Division

Presents:

Profile of...

Montana Consensus Council

State of Montana



Agency Profile

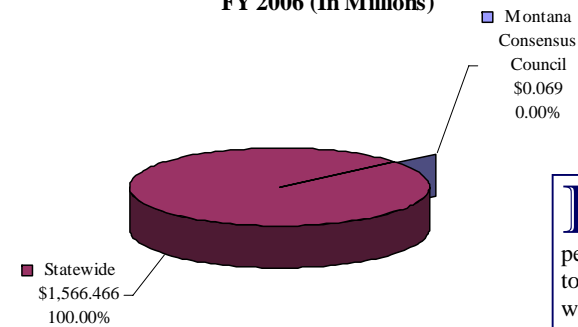
This agency profile will discuss...

- structure and funding
- primary functions and
- historical expenditures

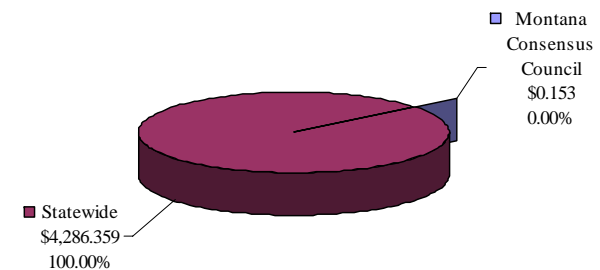
The profile also includes information on how decisionmakers can effect change in the agency's expenditures along with a listing of pertinent statistics. For an explanation of terms used in this profile, consult the "Background on the Agency Profiles" at: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/fiscal/default.asp>

Sept. 2006

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For further information, call the Legislative Fiscal Division @ 444-2986 or visit our web site @ <http://www.leg.mt.gov/css/fiscal>

General Fund Statewide Comparison
FY 2006 (In Millions)

Let's begin by putting the agency's size in perspective by comparing it to state government as a whole.

Total Funds Statewide Comparison
FY 2006 (In Millions)

250 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$3.50 per copy, for a total cost of \$875.00. This includes \$875.00 for printing and \$0.00 for distribution.

Legislative Fiscal Division

www.leg.mt.gov/css/fiscal

Primary Contact: Greg DeWitt
Room 110A, State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620-1711

Section A
General Government & Transportation



What the Agency Does

Montana Consensus Council is established in Montana law to promote fair, effective, and efficient processes for building agreement on natural resource and other public policy issues that are important to Montanans. The council facilitates a consensus process for engaging citizens and officials to build agreements and resolve disputes.

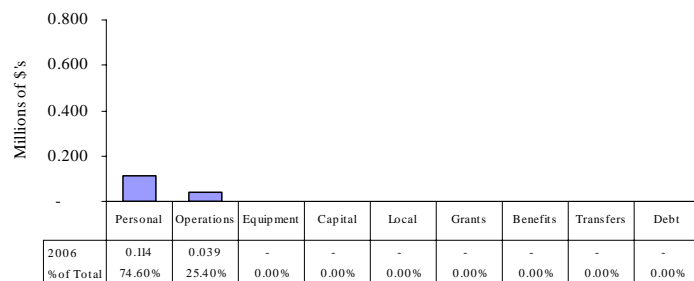
Total FY 2006 FTE: 2.50 FTE



How Services Are Provided

The Montana Consensus Council consists of one division that provides consensus-building services on natural resource and other public policy issues. The council provides services primarily through a group of professional contract mediators and facilitators with project activities directed and overseen by state employees. The council is governed by an eight-member board of directors, jointly appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership from both political parties. It is attached to the Department of Administration for administrative purposes only and receives accounting, budgeting, and human resources related services from the department for a fee.

**Montana Consensus Council History
All Funds FY 2006**



Statewide Factors With Impact

In addition to the factors above, a number of factors common to many agencies will also impact changes in expenditures over time.

- Nearly three quarters of the council budget funds personal services. Therefore any decisions that change FTE levels or personal services cost components such as level of the pay plan and benefits have a direct impact on council budget.



Statutory References

The primary statutory references defining duties and responsibilities of the department are found at the following locations.

2-15-1027, MCA - Montana consensus council -- purpose -- composition -- administration -- executive director



How the Legislature Can Effect Change



In order to change expenditure levels and/or agency activity, the legislature must address one or more of the following basic elements that drive costs.

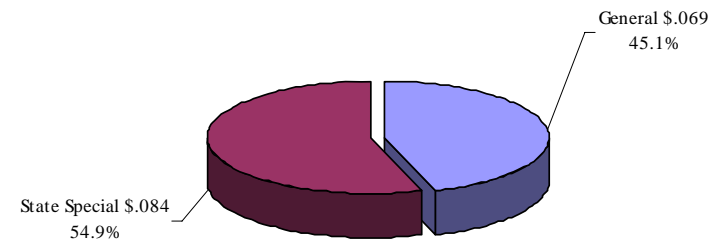
Predictability of funding – Currently, the council markets its services and participates in natural resource and other public policy deliberation processes when contracted by parties interested in the issue. When the council was first established, it was supported with general fund appropriations with the intent that it would work to be self-supporting and operate with funding raised from fees charged for services and other non-state funds raised by the council. Statute directs that the board of directors hire an executive director to administer the duties of the council. Personal services for the statutorily directed executive director and for the expenses incidental to providing basic office operations represent fixed cost expenses for the self-supported funding of the council. In order to effect change for the council, the legislature may wish to address the relationship between funding predictability and the statutory direction and use of the office.



How Services Are Funded

In FY 2006, services of the Montana Consensus Council were funded with general fund and state special revenue funds derived from fees charged for services. The executive director position is funded with general fund. With the general fund support for the executive director, general fund now provides 45 percent of council funding and state special revenue provides the remaining 55 percent.

Montana Consensus Council Funding History
All First Level FY 2006





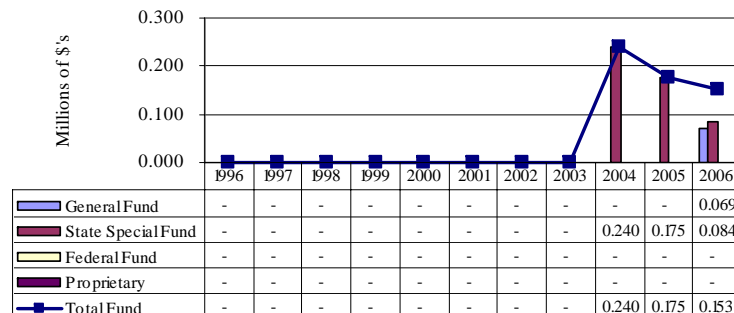
Related Data & Statistics

Element	1996	2006	Significance of Data
Number of major projects in which the council participated	4	5	Workload



Expenditure History

Montana Consensus Council Funding History



Effective in FY 2004, the Montana Consensus Council was reorganized out of the Governor's Office to a separate agency administratively attached to the Department of Administration. The reorganization was enacted through passage and approval of HB 741 by the 2003 Legislature. Expenditures of the council prior to FY 2004 are combined with the expenditures of the Governor's Office. Since FY 2004, total fund expenditures of the council have declined from nearly \$240,000 to \$153,000 in FY 2006, or 64 percent of the FY 2004 level.

Reasons for Expenditure Growth/Change

From FY 2004 to FY 2006, total funding has declined by nearly \$86,400. The expenditure decline is largely attributable to the loss of a significant grant that supported the work of the council. Without the grant and before the 2005 legislature provided general fund for the executive director position, the operations of the council were derived entirely from fees for services. Because of the small staffing level and the reliance on service fees, the executive director, also a consensus mediator, spent a significant amount of time doing outreach and marketing activities and not providing consensus services to the detriment of fee revenue.

Agency Functions, State Purposes, & Customers Served

The agency is structured to perform certain functions in support of general state government purposes. The following lists the major functions, purpose of provision of the functions, and primary customers served.

State Purposes	Major Agency Functions	Customers
<i>Protection, Enhancement, Remediation of Natural Resources</i>	Montana Consensus Council	General public

